

to the neutrality of China, says that it is not why Russia is neutral, but that it is because it is neutral.

The document appears to protect Russia from a direct attack, the Novoe Vremya adds, and recognizes her international position north of the great wall, but the note stands or falls with the reality of Chinese neutrality. So long as China honestly and successfully maintains neutrality, Russia will be unwilling to violate it.

Opposed to Witte, Mr. N. Kokovozoff, who yesterday was appointed finance minister in succession to M. Witte, is considered to be a most determined opponent of the financial policy of M. Witte, who resigned his position as minister of finance in August last. He has for many years been ambitious to become finance minister and was appointed M. Witte's assistant while the latter held the portfolio, but only to a disagreement he resigned. Mr. Kokovozoff is regarded here as being a safe, conservative financier, and it is believed under his administration Russian credit abroad will be sustained. In spite of the appointment it is persistently rumored that M. Witte will be given supreme control of the finances.

As a means of meeting the extraordinary war expenses, the Bourse Gazette says it believes the latest is a favorable time for an income tax, which will not meet with opposition, owing to the general readiness of the nation to share the burden imposed by the war.

JAPAN'S REPLY TO CHINA.

Mikado Disclaims Any Intention of Conquest.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 19.—The government report of the naval action off Chemulpo (Feb. 9) says the Russian cruiser Variag and Korietz sank a Japanese cruiser and a torpedo boat destroyed and crippled another vessel before entering the harbor.

The government today received from the officers of the Variag and Korietz, who are now at Shanghai, their account of the fight at Chemulpo. The account shows the admirable handling of the Russian warships in the face of overwhelming odds. The Variag, the flagship, was the first to engage the Japanese squadron of eight warships. The Variag, the flagship, was the first to engage the Japanese squadron of eight warships. The Variag, the flagship, was the first to engage the Japanese squadron of eight warships.

As this would have endangered the other vessels in the harbor, including the French and other foreign vessels, Captain Roudneff of the Variag, as senior officer, boldly gave orders that both vessels should retreat and meet the enemy. The fight outside between the Variag and Korietz and the eight Japanese warships resulted, according to the officers' report, in the sinking of two Japanese warships, one cruiser and one torpedo boat destroyer and the crippling of a third vessel. The Russian ships were repeatedly struck but succeeded in re-entering the harbor, where the captains decided to blow up their ships to prevent them from falling into the hands of the enemy.

The survivors of the crews were taken off and the two warships were set on fire. The Russians also blew up the cruiser, the Sanguin, which was acting as a tender to the Variag. The few St. Petersburgers who have just heard the official news of the Chemulpo fight are eloquent in their praise of the skillful and gallant conduct of the Variag's captain. They say he inflicted all the damage possible to the enemy's vessel and then destroyed his own ships. More than that a sailor could not do in the face of such tremendous odds.

There is no question of Russia making a protest against the Japanese attack on the neutral port of Chemulpo, as Korea, being occupied by Japanese troops, has lost her neutral character.

BATTLE AT CHEMULPO.

Russian Account of How the Variag and Korietz Went Down.

Tokio, Feb. 19.—The response of Japan to the request of China for a statement of its position in regard to the neutrality of Chemulpo, which was made public today. Its text is as follows:

"The imperial government, desiring to avoid as far as possible a disturbance of the peaceful condition of affairs which prevails in China, will in all cases of Chinese aggression in the regions now occupied by Russia, respect the neutrality of China so long as Russia does the same.

"The rules of war which govern the forces of Japan in the field do not permit the wanton destruction of property. Accordingly, the imperial government may rest assured that the museums and palaces at Mukden and Hsing King and public buildings in China everywhere will be secure from any injury not attributable to the action of Russia.

"Furthermore, the rights of Chinese officials and inhabitants within the zone of military operations will, in their persons and property, be fully respected and protected by the imperial government, so far as military necessity permits. In the event, however, that they should extend aid and comfort to the forces of Japan the imperial government reserve to themselves the right to take such action as the circumstances require.

"It only remains to say, in conclusion, that the present war is not being waged by Japan for the purpose of conquest, but that it is a war for legitimate rights and interests and, consequently, that the imperial government has no intention to acquire territory at the expense of China as a result of the conflict.

"The imperial government also wish the imperial government to clearly understand that whatever action may be taken by them on Chinese territory which is made the theatre of war will be the result of military necessity and not in impairment of Chinese sovereignty."

RETREAT TO THE NORTH.

Russians May Not Attempt to Hold Port Arthur.

Paris, Feb. 19.—Significance is attached to the figures of the possible retreat of the Russian forces from Port Arthur toward the north. The figures, which are intensely pro-Russian and enjoy the favor of the Russian court, explain the Russian policy in the military operations has had the effect of confirming Viceroy Alexander's plan to withdraw northward toward Mukden and Harbin.

The military editor of the Figaro declares this would be a wise and tactical movement, and that the Russian troops are better able to make a stand further north.

RUSSIA'S VAST ARMY.

Manchuria Will Be Held by a Force of 400,000 Men.

Paris, Feb. 19.—A representative of the Russian military concentration at Harbin after great hardships, due to the trans-Siberian railway trains being crowded with thousands of soldiers, in a dispatch from Harbin yesterday confirms the announcement that the place will be the main base of the Russian operations. Thus far the base

has succeeded in maintaining its communication with Port Arthur. The concentration of troops, the correspondent says, proceeds systematically and provision has been made for the speedy arrival of 1,500 men from the divisions of Moscow, Kieff and Warsaw. Between twelve days have elapsed the Russians will have disposed of an army of 500,000 men through Manchuria. Intense demoralization exists among the populace and the people of the surrounding villages are flocking into the town, seeking to reach western Russia. The railroad trains, however, are blocked and over 2,000 voyagers are thus held up. The intense cold prevailing in the winter and the snowing adds to the difficulties of bringing forward troops.

RAILWAY BLOCKADED.

Women and Children in Manchuria Likely to Suffer.

Harbin, Manchuria, Thursday, Feb. 18.—The Russian troops are concentrated in the lower Yalu river valley. Everybody is in high spirits and daily expecting reinforcements. Russian families are leaving Manchuria, owing to the dearth of provisions, of which all are required for the troops.

The Manchurian and especially the trans-Baikal railroads cannot cope with the demands for transportation. Women and children are unable to get trains, but, however, the stations suffering from cold and hunger.

The rise in prices is due to some extent to the fall in the value of money, which in some places is altogether refused. It is expected that there will be sufficient supplies of bread, meat, butter, petroleum and other goods, but not enough sugar, preserved meats and linen, and that there will be great shortages of boots. It is not to be expected that such stores can arrive for some time.

The Manchurian railroad officials have applied for extra allowances of pay.

VIRTUALLY ACCEPTS.

Russia's Reply to the Note of Secretary Hay.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 19.—Russia's reply to Secretary Hay's note on China today.

The reply was given to Mr. McCormick by Foreign Minister Lamoriniere, and was promptly dispatched to Washington. It is known that the terms of the reply are along the lines previously being a virtual acceptance in peace. The Russian government, which is now the theatre of war, and where Russia's special interest is in the maintenance of peace, has been so far from being as solicitous as the other powers that the neutrality of China should not be broken and that the area of hostilities be confined to the narrow limits.

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RUSSIA DECLINES.

Cannot Grant an Exequatur to Mr. Morgan at Dalg.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Secretary Hay has been informed that Edwin W. Morgan will not be granted an exequatur by the Russian government. The Russian government has declined to grant an exequatur to Mr. Morgan, who is now on his way from Washington to St. Petersburg. The Russian government has declined to grant an exequatur to Mr. Morgan, who is now on his way from Washington to St. Petersburg. The Russian government has declined to grant an exequatur to Mr. Morgan, who is now on his way from Washington to St. Petersburg.

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The various tribes and nations which occupied the vast territory then known simply as Turkestan were in a condition of wild disorder and were united only in a common hatred for the Christians. In June, 1864, an expedition under General Chernichev had been sent into that portion of what is now West Turkestan, which lay just across the border between Russia and Persia. Tashkent had fallen in June, 1865. Just before Kouroupatkin's arrival on the scene the important victory of Irian had been won by 5,000 Russians over 40,000 Bokharans.

Under Mr. Kouroupatkin participated in all the subsequent hostilities, which culminated in the capture of Samarcand, the Emir's capital. A treaty was concluded which left Bokhara politically free, but transferred Samarcand to Russia.

Kouroupatkin returned to St. Petersburg with the rank of lieutenant, to continue his military studies in the academy of the general staff. In 1871, as the most brilliant graduate of the academy, he was sent abroad to study military conditions in various European countries. In France, President MacMahon invited him to take part in the maneuvers at Metz. Here he displayed such strategic ability that he was decorated with the cross of the Legion of Honor, being the first Russian to win that distinction.

FRANCE IS FRIENDLY.

Will Favor Russia as Far as She Possibly Can.

Paris, Feb. 19.—It is announced officially that the French government has issued instructions relative to the observance of neutrality, and that, practically, they are the same as those issued by the French government during the Spanish-American war, but it is pointed out that the French navigation laws contain no positive requirement that belligerent ships shall leave a neutral port within twenty-four hours, and that, therefore, the French government is not bound by custom, instead of being a legal requirement, as under the British navigation laws.

No change has yet been announced relative to permitting the Russian squadron to remain at Djibuti. French Somaliland, the authorities evidently being desirous to fully observe the requirements of neutrality without unnecessarily causing offense or embarrassment to a power with which France is closely allied.

GOING TO THE FRONT.

Russia Sending Her Ablest Commanders to the Far East.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 19.—War Minister Kouroupatkin, who is going to the front, is expected to observe the in-charge of army operations, and Vice Consul Marakoff, who is now on his way on a train which is expected to reach Port Arthur in ten days, breaking all previous records, is to be commander-in-chief of the navy. Rear Admiral Josen has been ap-

pointed to succeed Rear Admiral Ewald von Shackelberg, commander of the Vladivostok squadron. Rear Admiral Josen has the reputation of being a bold sailor who does not hesitate in an emergency. He will leave St. Petersburg immediately.

Although Viceroy Alexander has been condemned in some quarters, there is no intimation that he will not retain the ceremonial in the far east. It is possible, however, that the direction of field movements may pass out of his hands.

The authorities have notified her commander that his ship may remain in port for a limited time, but he cannot be provided with coal in quantities more than sufficient to enable him to reach the nearest Russian port.

Premier Mura denies the report that the British government has invited Spain to safeguard her neutrality in the Russo-Japanese dispute, asserting that no diplomatic negotiations whatever have been received on the question and that the military measures taken were a step required by the most elementary prudence.

Censorship Abolished.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 19.—The Russian government has abolished the censorship in the case of all telegrams going abroad.

Japanese Cruiser at Shanghai.

Shanghai, Feb. 19.—A large Japanese cruiser arrived at Wu Sang telegraph miles north of Shanghai today.

MURDER IN MONTANA.

Helena, Mont., Feb. 19.—The body of an unknown man was found on the prairie near Stockett. There were five bullet holes in the body and the victim's pockets were empty. A companion of the man has disappeared. The victim is known to have had \$30.

ABNER MCKINLEY BETTER.

Somerest, Pa., Feb. 19.—Abner McKinley's condition was slightly improved today. His physicians refuse to express any opinion further than to say that he is not in immediate danger.

LUMBER BEING BURNED.

Santa Cruz, Cal., Feb. 19.—The planing mill and lumber yard of the Lamin Prieta company were destroyed by fire today. The loss is about \$50,000.

ACTORS IN THE GREAT WAR DRAMA



General Kouroupatkin.

It is safe to say that not Russia alone, but the great globe itself, contains no man so thoroughly equipped in every branch of military knowledge as General Alexei Nikolavitch Kouroupatkin, who since 1888 has been minister of war in the Russian empire.

Educated in the theory of arms at the best of the Russian military schools, trained to practice under the greatest of modern Russian warriors, General Kikhal Skobelev, he made a glorious record in every important Russian war since 1865, and worked his way up from sub-lieutenant in that year to the command of the army in 1897.

Nor is this the sum total of his accomplishments. His monographs on the chief episodes of the Balkan campaign are acknowledged classics. His books on "Algeria" and "Kashgar" have been crowned by the Imperial Geographical society, his essays are recognized authorities on every point of strategy, his proficiency as an instructor of youth has been demonstrated in the technical schools, his executive abilities have been tested in the most successful tests in the government of the Trans-Caspian district and in the onerous duties which he has occupied at present, and he has won more decorations than any one breast could wear at any one time.

Like most Russian officers, he comes from the ancient nobility. For centuries his family played a leading part in the local government of the Russian empire, and his ancestors are situated.

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TRY TO PROVE CLEAN HANDS

Statement of Attorney For Defense in Dewey Murder Case.

STRONG ASSERTIONS MADE CLAIM SET UP THAT THE BERRYS FIRED FIRST.

Kansas City, Feb. 19.—A special from Norman, Kan., said that the attorney for Chauncey Dewey and his two cowboys, McBride and Wilson, today told the defendants' side of the shooting affray at the Berry ranch on June 3 last, when three members of the Berry family were shot down, and began the introduction of testimony. The defense's first witness being General Wilder S. Metcalf, former governor of Kansas, and two Kansas volunteers and now pension agent at Topeka. Previously Judge Geiger had overruled motions to disqualify Wilson, Dewey and McBride.

Senator Hessin, in his narrative of the battle, asserted that the Berrys had fired the first shot. It was not shown, he said, that on the day of the fight Dewey, McBride and Wilson had gone to the Berry place to take away a water tank they had bought. The three Berrys, he said, were on the way with their hands upon the revolvers. Chauncey Dewey called out to the Berrys, where they were and the three Berrys drew their revolvers and fired.

"Then," asserted Attorney Hessin, "you must not tell me that the Berrys acted in self-defense. Burch Berry, instead of shooting only once, emptied his revolver. We will show that the Berrys were on the way to the Berry ranch on June 3 last, when three members of the Berry family were shot down, and began the introduction of testimony. The defense's first witness being General Wilder S. Metcalf, former governor of Kansas, and two Kansas volunteers and now pension agent at Topeka. Previously Judge Geiger had overruled motions to disqualify Wilson, Dewey and McBride.

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